Telephone booths on stations

*525. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:
SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telephone booths were allotted to handicapped persons in Railway Stations across the country under a Central Government Scheme to rehabilitate the disabled in 1981, the International Year of Disabled;

(b) if so, how many such booths were allotted all over the country, Railway Zone-wise and what are the terms and conditions of such allotment;

(c) whether it is also a fact that their agreement has expired on April 27, this year;

(d) if so, whether Government have a proposal to further extension of the agreement to the existing booth owners; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The data regarding number of such booths allotted is given in Statement (*See* below). The booths were allotted by railway without any charges on the basis of sanction of telephone by P&T department.

(c) and (d) The 1981 policy has been revised from time to time. The STD/PCO booth holders have been given extensions on the basis of revised policy guidelines, several times and the last extension was to end on 27.4.2007. The extension has now been given upto 27.7.2007.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

No. of booths allotted to physically handicapped persons as per 1981 policy

(As per available information)

Railway	No. of booths		
	In 1981	Upto 1990	Upto 1994
Central	0	9	19
Eastern	0	0	0
East Central	0	0	1
East Coast	0	0	1
Northern	0	0	6
North Central	0	1	2
Northeast	0	0	0
Northeast frontier	0	0	0
North Western	0	0	0
Southern	10	35	57
South Central	0	1	2
Southeastern	0	0	0
Southeast Central	0	0	0
South Western	0	2	3
Western	7	27	37
West Central	0	0	1
TOTAL:	17	75	129

Note: The Scheme was introduced in 1981 which continued till 1994 with a few modifications